



Attorney General Jon Bruning

News Release

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Contact: Shannon L. Kingery
402.471.2067
Shannon.kingery@nebraska.gov

AG Bruning Presents Attorney General's Office Law Enforcement Extraordinary Service Awards

LINCOLN - Attorney General Jon Bruning today presented the Attorney General's Office Law Enforcement Extraordinary Service Awards at this year's Police Officers Association of Nebraska Annual Conference in Kearney.

"The brave men and women of Nebraska law enforcement stand on the front lines of public safety," said Bruning. "Today's award recipients deserve recognition for going above and beyond the call of duty to protect their fellow Nebraskans."

Attorney General Bruning presented two honors at the conference: the 2010 Herb Spears Protecting Children Award and the 2010 Certificate of Valor.

The recipient of the Herb Spears Protecting Children Award was Sergeant Derek Bees of the Bellevue Police Department (formerly Detective). Last year, Sgt. Bees' investigative work led to the arrest and conviction of a man who was sexually and physically abusing his 10-year-old developmentally-delayed stepdaughter.

The Certificate of Valor was awarded to Officer Kurt Pafford of the Fremont Police Department. In 2010, Officer Pafford demonstrated extraordinary courage when responding to a potentially-deadly altercation. His bravery and coolness under pressure saved the life of a woman and resulted in the apprehension of the perpetrator.

The Herb Spears Protecting Children Award is named in commemoration of the late Attorney General's Office prosecutor Herb Spears. Spears served as a senior trial lawyer in the Child Protection Unit of the Nebraska Attorney General's Office for 20 years.

"We are pleased the Attorney General's Office has created this award in Herb's name," said Sherry Spears, his widow. "Herb was passionate about protecting children from abuse and would have been proud of the work done by these extraordinary officers."

The Attorney General's Office Extraordinary Service Awards are presented annually. Nominations are taken from all areas of law enforcement throughout the state.